

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2599
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025

HYGIENE STANDARDS IN SCHOOL MEALS UNDER PM POSHAN SCHEME

2599. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards, Kolkata has organised workshops focused on cleanliness standards for meals prepared under the PM Poshan Scheme in Government schools in accordance with IS 6541:2024;
- (b) if so, the details of such initiatives, including the number of workshops conducted, the stakeholders involved and the outcomes achieved;
- (c) whether BIS is aware of lack of cleanliness and hygiene in Government schools across West Bengal and if so, the steps being taken to address these concerns; and
- (d) whether any follow-up measures or inspections have been conducted by BIS Kolkata to ensure adherence to IS 6541:2024 standards in schools across West Bengal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L VERMA)

(a) to (c) : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has conducted multiple workshops focused on cleanliness standards for meals prepared for schools. BIS Standard IS 6541:2024 sets guidelines broadly for food safety and hygiene measures to be adopted in the school/centralized kitchen and include separate sections on general principles for maintenance of cleanliness, hygiene in the premises, food safety measures during procurement, storage and preparation, precautionary measures and personal hygiene.

BIS Kolkata conducted 07 orientation seminars to educate school students and teachers about IS 6541 for the school's standards clubs. Further, BIS Kolkata, has briefed Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) during 11th District Level Advisory Committee held on 26 June 2024 about the standard IS 6541:2024.

The role of BIS is to create awareness for maintaining hygienic conditions in schools/centralized kitchen through organizing workshops and is not mandated to carry out inspections.

(d) : BIS has been regularly generating awareness among all the schools who are running standards clubs of BIS about IS 6541:2024 during its promotional campaigns including specific awareness programme on IS 6541:2024.
